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Jonelle Sills gestures while singing *Czardás* from *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss II at the A Night at the Operetta on Tuesday, Aug. 9 at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton. The Operetta, which included 14 performers (and two accompanists), offered event goers 17 songs, and was part of the Highlands Opera Studio season of offerings. See highlandsoperastudio.com for other performances. See more photos on page 16.
/DARREN LUM Staff

Council wades closer to shoreline bylaw vote

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County council decided it is still too soon to pass the shoreline preservation bylaw, so it will be reviewed again at the next regular council meeting on

Aug. 24 once more adjustments are made.

One of the adjustments will be to consider wetlands as protected within the bylaw.

"I'm not comfortable with some pieces of [the proposed bylaw], however, we are so close it's not even funny, and if we can't get it in two weeks, then where does

it say we can't have another special meeting in September to get the thing done, but get it done so that we can go to our people and say, 'not only is this a good bylaw on paper, but the darn thing is going to work, and it's going to work well for all of us; the environment, the governments that are affected, and also the peo-

ple,'" said Deputy Mayor of Highlands East Cecil Ryall.

During the Aug. 10 Haliburton County special meeting of council, councillors reviewed comments made about the new Haliburton County shoreline preservation bylaw document from solicitor Paul Dray

see WETLANDS page 2

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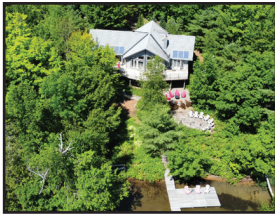


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Wetlands to be protected within shoreline bylaw

from page 1

of Paul Dray Legal Services.

Dray's comments were presented by senior planner Jason Ferrigan of J.L. Richards and Associates Ltd, and they consisted of language change recommendations to provide more clarity to certain sections of the document.

To help give more clarity to readers, council decided to move definitions of words within the document to the beginning of the and to also add a severability clause.

Decision to hold the vote

Some council members were prepared to pass the bylaw at the special meeting, while others thought it was too soon.

"We've had five years invested in this and there's been comments made on multiple platforms, folks that have only paid attention in the last little while, and there's a lot of time and energy both by this council, the lower tiers, staff, a lot of stuff. There's no bylaw or legislation that's perfect, and we've not only made reference during the course of this process that this is a living thing, that if there are things with unintended outcomes that council can quickly change those things with whatever we pass. I can say that I think this a good product. I think it passes all kinds of standards and tests when I compare it to other jurisdictions ... I am ready to move forward with this. Water and our natural environment is our principal asset in Haliburton County," Mayor of Minden Hills Brent Devolin said.

Warden Liz Danielsen said, previously, a vote might have been held at the special meeting on Aug. 10 to amend the bylaw, but she suggested another option is to bring a "clean document" back to the Haliburton County regular council meeting on Aug. 24 to vote on.

"I know that will open us up to another ream of emails on all sides, and it would have been my preference [to vote now], we've just worked on this for so long, but there are some things that need clarity," Danielsen said.

Deputy Mayor of Minden Hills Lisa Schell said she is in support of the decision to clarify items in the document further, but she wishes for the current council to vote on the bylaw instead of leaving it for the next term.

"At the end of the day, I'm elected by the residents of Minden Hills, and everything that our council has received from our lake associations within our municipality, they are in favour of this document. I know that some of our other councillors sitting here from some of the lakes within their district are not in favour, but we have to vote based on what we are hearing from our constituents," Schell said. "I am prepared to do as you said and bring back a clean copy so that we all have an opportunity to see it, but once that's done, I would like to see this council either move this forward or put it to bed. I don't like the idea of leaving it for the next council."

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt agreed and said the process of the shoreline preservation bylaw has been slow, but a clean copy is necessary.

"I still don't feel that this is the time to pass and enact a bylaw ... that doesn't mean I don't think we've done really good work. I just think the implementation is going to be a lot more complicated, and I think that needs to be clearly spelled out prior," Mayor of Dysart et al Andrea Roberts said.

Schell and Danielsen addressed the situation being called a "lame duck" by some community members.

"We have gotten legal advice. There is absolutely no "lame duck" associated with this project. It's been budgeted for us, it's been planned, we've been working on it for years, the money's in the budget, and it's the financial aspect of it that has the most impact on the "lame duck,"" Danielsen said.

Wetlands as part of the bylaw

Council expressed their desire to protect wetlands within the shoreline preservation bylaw.

Ferrigan spoke about section 2 of the bylaw which states, "This By-law shall apply to the shoreline in the County," and said that "bodies of water" needed to be further clarified within the document so readers could identify what is also considered "shoreline."

"Shoreline is a defining term. Through our discussion, as we were looking at the definition of shoreline, which includes a secondary reference to a body of water, and then going back and looking at the definition of prohibited area, those two definitions in particular, body of

water and prohibited area, they're subject to some interpretation, and our recollection of the conversation that we had with county council was that county council was interested in protecting the shoreline, the first 20 metres back from the high-water mark," Ferrigan said. "County council was also interested in protecting environmental features within the community that are identified in the county and in the local planning document. If you go and read the definition of "body of water" in particular, it can be interpreted in two different ways. It can be interpreted in that council is seeking to protect wetlands only within the defined shoreline area, so that first 20 metres back from the high-water mark. Or, it could also be interpreted as county council wishes for that protection to be extended to wetlands beyond the shoreline area."

Ferrigan expressed their desire to alter the language used in the bylaw so it is subject to less interpretation and asked council if they wished for the bylaw to include language to state that wetlands are also protected.

"It was my understanding that at the end of the discussion we had agreed on the desire to protect the wetlands overall, not just the 20 metres, but I would look to members of council to confirm that or comment," Danielsen said.

"Maybe there's an opportunity to add something, such as a phrase that refers to, 'and those lands zoned as open space or environmental protection,' so that may be the fix that council's looking at for some clarity that doesn't specifically say wetlands, but it would include them if the townships have zoned it accordingly," said director of planning for the County of Haliburton Steve Stone.

Ferrigan said, "I would suggest that if county council wishes to have the bylaw apply to wetlands, then we would take your direction and go back and look at the definition of body of water, and look at section 2 of the bylaw ... and we will need to change that definition slightly."

Roberts said protecting wetlands have been a concern for many people across the county, and both Roberts and Danielsen said they believe wetlands should be included in the shoreline preservation bylaw's definition of "body of water."

Addressing environmental impact studies

Roberts brought up a recent zoning amendment in Dysart where property owners desired to extend residential zoning on their property.

The owners needed to acquire an environmental impact study to determine where wetlands existed on the ground in comparison to where they existed on Dysart maps because the wetlands on the maps didn't match real wetlands on the ground, which cost the owners thousands.

"I guess part of my concern is our mapping. It isn't necessarily accurate to what's on the ground," Roberts said.

"We had a similar situation for an application where there was an identified wetland that actually didn't exist, so I think that's maybe a note to staff that some of the tools we use may not be exactly aligned. Yes, those studies are expensive, and I think part of the overall intent of this glacial process is around the expectation or the obligation of stewardship," Moffatt said. "Wetlands are the lungs of the Earth, and we have lots of them in Haliburton County, and if you have one on your property, it's a stewardship opportunity. So, we almost shouldn't have to put anything in place to govern that, but it sounds like we do, and unfortunately what goes with that could be those studies ... the bottom line is this is an overall view to maintain what we have for as long as we can."

Reviewing the document on an ongoing basis

Ferrigan asked council if they would like to change wording to say the bylaw will be reviewed on "an ongoing and periodic basis" rather than yearly so there is no commitment to review it each year.

"Definitely, I agree with the suggestion. We've seen here after two years of COVID that things didn't happen on an annualized basis. This is a huge improvement. I think it aligns with our intent with this ... I fully expect, unfortunately within the municipal world, that we have

see CHANGING page 3

Crowe Valley Conservation Authority underfunded, understaffed, under capacity

CHRIS DROST

Staff Reporter

The *Bancroft Times* (the *Echo's* sister paper) was contacted recently by a Highlands East resident who asked us to investigate who Conservation Authorities are responsible to and why the timeline for obtaining a building permit listed on the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority website has not been changed to be more realistic of what people may expect.

In 2021, Debbie Christie of Highlands East, had a minor variance approved by the Municipality of Highlands East to build a small mudroom onto her residence. It had also been approved by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA). In April of this year, she applied for the building permit and lined up a contractor to complete the work in June.

The website says the wait for a building permit is typically 15 to 20 days. It has now been 12 weeks and Christie's frustration is growing.

"If it is going to take six months for a permit, then announce it on the website. If we had known we had to wait six months we would have planned for it," Christie said.

During the first week of August Christie was told she was now seventh in line and it will take two to three more weeks for the permit.

"We are at risk of losing our contractor and may have to put it off for another year. It is because of this that people don't get permits," she said.

Christie explains that when they applied for the zoning variance, they had to move their shed three inches.

"We keep our shoreline natural. We aren't people who defy these things," she

adds.

The *Bancroft Times* reached out to Tim Pidduk, general manager and secretary-treasurer of the CVCA for a response.

"We have been experiencing an increase in workload. The timeline on the website is based on the application being completed, which it sounds like it was in this case. We can have a look at the timeline on the website," Pidduk said.

The CVCA has had a lot of additional planning items and property inquiries to deal with recently.

"It is similar to a lot of other services throughout Canada, things like passports and health care," Pidduk said.

He believes that services have been hardest hit.

"We are a victim of changes COVID-19 imposed," he explains.

"We don't have the resources," Pidduk said.

There has been a reduction in funding to the CVCA. The province previously funded \$116,742 but now, it is basically cut in half," Pidduk said.

Now, the bulk of the funding comes from the municipalities instead of the province. According to Pidduk, the province first started making cuts in the mid-1990s and it has continued to decline.

"The province was funding 60 to 70 per cent of total revenue, but with the cuts there has been a complete reversal. The municipalities are now paying 70 to 80 per cent," he explains.

"There is only so much we can ask for from our municipalities. Some in our area are paying more than the province. We have not been able to expand our capacity and COVID-19 has made it worse," Pidduk said.

Recent changes to the Conservation

Authority Act, under which conservation authorities operate, have delineated that the municipalities have more say, but at the same time it stipulates that more programs and services must be offered. Most conservation authorities in Eastern Ontario are experiencing the same pressures, according to Pidduk. He noted that Lower Trent has hired additional staff but they are still not keeping up.

"The conservation authorities are underfunded, understaffed and under capacity," Pidduk said.

Municipalities are responsible to fund conservation authorities.

"This makes it difficult to ask municipalities [for more funding] when our conservation authority has the highest per capita rate in the province, approximately \$70 per capita. In most other areas it is \$20 or less," he said.

"It is basically a rural versus urban issue. The province should be trying to reallocate funding to rural areas that can't afford the rates. In these times it is difficult. Balance has never been allocated to rural conservation authorities," he explains.

Pidduk finished by reiterating that he will investigate changing the expected timelines for permits on the website to something more realistic. He also agreed to follow up on the Christie case.

Changing bylaw wording important

from page 2

today, that anything we do in terms of bylaws and rules are going to be a challenge at every level, certainly in the world we live in. This definitely will remove some ammunition for somebody to use to undermine whatever we do," Devolin said.

Warden Liz Danielsen agreed that the new wording would better follow the county's intent on the process of reviewing the bylaw.

Moffatt said, "I agree about alignment with the intent, and also perhaps from the opposite side, is it also will allow

the county and the public to be able to respond as needed to anything that might pop up that, when things are this big and this new, something could come up that either needs enhancement, refinement, modification, and you don't want to say, 'you know, we can only do it once a year,' so it can be addressed on a more responsive basis, and I think that's helpful."

Haliburton County council's next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 9 a.m. and can be watched here on their YouTube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UCD5Nnj_j7WcU-OkketJpqqw.

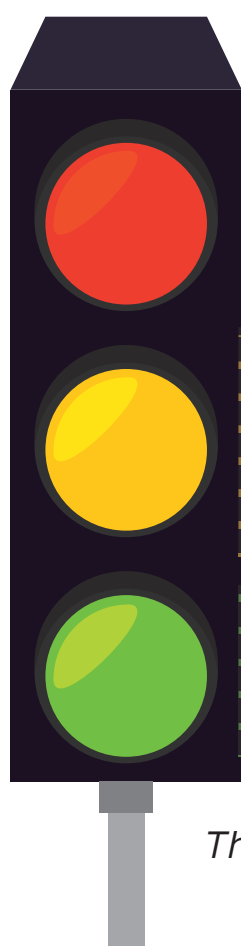
CORRECTION

In the Aug. 9 edition of the *Haliburton Echo*, the cover photo showed Ellie Nimigon, who was misidentified as Ellie Brandon.

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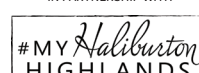
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Health unit order to shut down outdoor hot tubs has resort owners boiling

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

There's no love for some Haliburton County resort hot tubs this summer.

The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit has been clamping down on the use of outdoor hot tubs, forcing some businesses to drain their tubs and lose the income that comes with offering the luxurious service.

Two resort owners who spoke to the *Haliburton Echo/Minden Times* are furious with the health unit for enforcing Ontario Health Regulation 565, which they argue is being interpreted incorrectly and isn't helpful in what they hoped would be a bump up year for tourism after two COVID summers. They say it's an example of government overreach, at the expense of their livelihoods and the economy.

"We've had these hot tubs for over a decade and it's never been an issue before," said Megan Heathy-Orr, who owns Buttermilk Falls Resort, one of the affected businesses.

She said a health inspector paid a random visit to her business in July and told her and her husband they must stop offering hot tub services, because the five hot tubs on site were outdoors. This, to the health unit, meant the business should be subjected to regulations which govern the use of outdoor public pools.

The regulation lists 28 different guidelines that a business must adhere to if offering an outdoor public pool, covering issues such as water testing, tracking the number of people entering and several safety-based procedures.

In Buttermilk Falls Resort's case, the hot tubs might be considered "Class B" pools because it's located on a property that contains six or more dwellings.

But Heathy-Orr said her business shouldn't be considered as a private pool operator, because the hot tubs are not intended for community use. Although they're outdoors, she said they are next to certain cabins and they are only assigned to people in those cabins.

She said the ruling is costing her a lot.



Owners of Buttermilk Falls Resort on Boshkung Lake, Stephen and Megan Heathy-Orr, emptied all of the outdoor hot tubs on their resort two weeks ago following orders from the Health Unit who claim the business should be subject to regulations that govern the use of outdoor pools. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Since the decision, she has re-imbursed some guests as much as \$200 per week, because they booked cabins on the assumption that they had hot tub service that, in the end, couldn't be offered.

"By the end of the summer, I'll have lost a mortgage payment," she said.

Rob Berthelot, owner of Sandy Lanes Resort, is also outraged with the clamp down. He told *The Haliburton Echo/Minden Times* that a health unit worker visited his site recently to inspect his kitchen.

The inspector then asked to see the hot tubs, which Berthelot closes for the summer and only offers to guests for the winter months. The inspector then warned Berthelot that he won't be permitted to offer them to people in the winter as they stand now, because they don't comply with the health regulation.

Like at Buttermilk Falls Resort, the five hot tubs on site are outdoors, but are

assigned to people in particular cabins. They're not intended for community use, he said.

When Berthelot was asked if it's possible for him to adjust his business to be in compliance with outdoor pool regulations he said "not a chance," knowing that the list of regulations is lengthy and meant for big businesses.

While, technically, no order was given to Berthelot, because the hot tubs haven't been used this summer, he knows the rule will cost him in the winter. In a fiercely-worded email to health unit officials, which he CC'ed to the *Haliburton Echo and Minden Times*, he revealed that he had to hand back \$800 to a guest who had booked a cabin in December, because they wanted the hot tub service.

"We just lost our first clients due to the lack of hot tub in December ... I hope you're happy," he wrote, sarcastically.

When speaking with *The Echo/Times* Berthelot said that outdoor hot tubs are an incredible feature to offer in the winter. He explained that he purchased Sandy Lanes in 2018 before the resort had hot tubs. He then installed the tubs and saw a \$20,000 difference in revenue, because customers like them so much.

"They get to sit out on the deck and look at the stars and watch the snow fall. It's nice and peaceful," he said.

A manager from the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit confirmed to the *Echo/Times* that staff have been conducting inspections and issuing orders around hot tubs to several Haliburton County businesses of late.

In an email, Health Protection Division manager Richard Ovcharovich, said the regulation is not new, but was revised in 2018.

He explained that the issue started when the health unit learned that the Lakeview Motel had hot tubs that were believed to be not in compliance with the regulation. Inspectors visited and ordered those hot tubs to be closed. The Lakeview Motel owner appealed the decision to the Health Services Review and Appeal Board, but lost the decision.

"Since this decision, our health unit has received several complaints of other travel accommodations within our jurisdiction operating private backyard domestic spas on their premises. We are required to follow-up with such complaints and have done so," Ovcharovich wrote.

Berthelot and Heathy-Orr are both aware that Lakeview Motel lost its appeal and, because of that, they're not sure how they can further challenge the ruling in a timely matter. While Berthelot is writing to various officials to say the regulation is being interpreted wrongly, Heathy-Orr believes it's the rule itself that has to change.

"We need to get this policy changed," she said. "It comes down to bureaucracy and we all know how slow bureaucracy moves."

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce hopes to support the impacted businesses and is trying to raise awareness of the issue.

An online memo released by Chamber executive director Bob Gaudette, outlines the dissatisfaction in the business community.

"Regulation 565 has been on the books for many years but has never been applied to small resorts/hotels and motels as it is today," the memo states. "Now, with no outreach, no warning, no education program, and, most importantly, no new health and safety related issues, the resorts are being told to shut down an important revenue stream, one that they have used safely for literally decades."

The memo also suggests that the strict enforcement is at odds to Ontario's efforts to boost tourism in a post-COVID era through programs like the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit.

"Customers ask for hot tubs when they book and often do not book when no hot tub is available. These smaller resorts are all struggling to recover from the impact of COVID related closures."

Heathy-Orr has her own theory; she feels that there's been a change in culture at the health unit and a new person has come in with a mandate to more strictly enforce rules. But Ovcharovich stressed that's not the case.

"I can guarantee you that our staff do not have anything to prove. We work with our operators to educate and inform them of the requirements," he wrote, adding that, although orders were issued, no businesses have not been levied with fines.



Radio raises important funds

Moose FM radio host Rick Lowes, from left, was joined by representatives of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) executive director Lisa Tompkins, vice-chair David Zilstra, and chair Eric Recalla for the Haliburton Highlands Health Radiothon on Friday, Aug. 12. The two-day fundraiser began on Aug. 11 and raised more than \$32,000 for new IV pumps for HHHS hospitals. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Help wanted in the Highlands:

Creative solutions needed for public and private sectors to address labour shortage, says Haliburton County CAO

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

This is the first in a series of stories for the Haliburton Echo/Minden Times, which will provide an insight on how a labour shortage is affecting our communities. This story looks at how it's impacting municipalities and the rippling effect on the tax base.

Last fall, Haliburton County had an opening for a procurement specialist – and in another era the process to fill the position would probably have gone smoothly. The position, which involves sourcing goods and services for municipalities, was going to pay well, offer good working conditions and be set in beautiful cottage country.

The county found a qualified candidate from outside the area and offered the position, but the candidate declined after not finding housing that met their needs. The county then made an offer to another candidate, who also declined, for a variety of personal reasons, including housing.

As a result, administrators took a step back and came up with a creative solution. The county is now trying to build a partnership with a neighbouring county who has a senior procurement specialist and is willing to train a more junior specialist who would work in Haliburton County. The county recently re-advertised the job, but cast a wider net, so the right candidate this time didn't have to have all the qualifications right away. As of Aug. 9, the county was in the final stages of hiring the new candidate and an announcement on the new hire was expected soon.

The story, which was explained by Haliburton County Chief Administrative Officer Mike Rutter, is an example of hiring in 2022, when a labour shortage is affecting a variety of Canadian industries, including municipalities.

While the shortage of workers in health care is well documented and obvious to understand – given the stress that sector has felt since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic – there's also evidence that a labour shortage is being felt across various industries. A 2022 survey conducted by the local Workforce Development Board found that 63.6 per cent of businesses said they intend to hire in 2022. Yet 44 per cent of those surveyed said it's difficult to fill positions, due to a lack of applicants. The survey targeted businesses from a wide cross-section of industries in Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Haliburton County. The list included manufacturing, retail, food services and public administration,

the field that encompasses Rutter's type of work.

"In the past, we might have said we want to have qualification A, B, C, and hold firm to that," Rutter said. "We may now be flexible in that and recognize there will be training."

Rutter said he used to see about 15 strong applications whenever the county offered a position that required a specific skill set.

Now, he says, there's usually two or three good applications for a position. He believes the trend is the result of the pandemic, the stress of which has accelerated the number of retirements in the powerful baby boom demographic. He also says the process of bringing in a new worker is more complicated than it's ever been, considering that positions require such specific training and employees may now come with specific requests, such as the ability to work remotely.

He's not likely alone in that thought. The Workforce Development Board survey reported that 49 per cent of businesses feel there's a poor availability of qualified workers. The survey also reported 41 per cent of business saying COVID-19 had a significant negative impact on their business.

This problem has vast consequences. In the Haliburton County case, not having a procurement specialist, whose job is to find savings for municipalities as they purchase goods and services, impacts the county's budget and, in turn, residents' tax commitments.

Rutter said the county's service delivery review plan calls for nearly \$1 million in savings, based on having someone in that position working on collaborative procurement.

And while Rutter has to worry about ensuring municipal positions are filled so taxpayers are getting bang for their buck, he also realizes that he and his colleagues must also support the private businesses in the community.

When asked how concerned he is for them, he said "very," knowing that if a labour shortage is impacting their operations, they're not likely meeting their revenue potentials and not contributing as much to the tax base, meaning the residential taxpayer is shouldering higher costs.

Rutter believes there's no one magic solution to the labour shortage for the private sector in a rural area, but transportation is an issue that always come up in Haliburton County.

He touted a new program, which the county recently financially backed, hoping it will lead to more people accessing the training they need to enter the workforce.

The program involved the leasing of an eight-person van and the hiring of a driver, who picks up people from their Haliburton-area homes and takes them to training programs run out of the SIRCH (Supportive Initiative for Residents in the County of Haliburton) office in the village. The hope is that people in remote, rural areas will have access to training and will eventually work in fields such as hospitality, retail and carpentry, where there's demand for workers.

Rutter also knows, from the procurement specialist situation, that a lack of available housing in the region, is also linked to a lack of available workers.

He said he and his colleagues at the county have discussed the idea of either purchasing property or taking property it owns and converting it into housing, which could be rented out to new county employees on a short-term basis. The idea is that, if they take a job here, they'll have a place they can stay at right away and until they've found their own place to live. That might limit the potential of a repeat of what happened in the fall, but it could be tough to pull off, he pointed out.

"We're not spending our own money, we're spending taxpayer money so we want to do it well if we do it," he said.

He emphasized that to address the labour shortage both in the public and private sectors, the county and its partners will have to continue to look at creative solutions. Internally, the county is now considering different opportunities for recruiting and retaining staff, such as allowing them to work longer shifts, in exchange for a weekday off or allowing employees to spend some days working at home.

He also acknowledged there's silver linings in the issue. He knows a new generation of employees may be able to enter the workforce without the limitations that many other generations have faced.

Plus, he sees the story of what happened with the procurement specialist job as a potential opportunity to find a local person, interested in a career in municipal work. When a rural business has to hire a position with a specific skill, they may not always have a local candidate. But Rutter thinks, with the position now advertised with fewer specific requirements, he might be able to find an unexpected home-grown employee, who turns out to be well worth the investment.

"I say to my staff all the time, 'let's find people who love Haliburton County,'" he said. "We'd love to give those opportunities and training to local people. They may be in the county already and waiting for that opportunity."



Jim and Marilyn Frost received a standing ovation from the final crowd of the 2022 Highlands Summer Festival season.

Summer salute

Highlands Summer Festival president Brian Kipping, centre, presents Marilyn and Jim Frost with a framed commemoration to thank them for their devoted work as ticket sellers for the festival for the past 18 years at the final show of the 2022 season. Marilyn and Jim are retiring from Highlands Summer Festival and have sold tickets since the festival began in 1999. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Audible attribute worth valuing

IT'S EASY TO forget what you have when you're not looking ... or listening.

This editorial may have a similar sentiment to last week, but there is never enough gratitude in this world, whether we're valuing the people in our lives, or valuing why the Highlands is special.

Summer here isn't the season we all anticipate because of only the weather. It goes beyond the convenience of being able to walk out your door, barefoot (shirtless if you want) and stand under a blazing sun to warm your face, and then feel the refreshing comfort of a cool breeze.

It's because of the energy, which is derived by what tickles our senses from what we smell, feel, see, hear and taste that makes life here worth savouring summer.

The other seasons have their attributes, but the brevity of summer lends itself to a special quality. I love the smell of hamburgers grilling on a barbecue. I welcome the brush of the grass along my legs as I ride my bicycle through a field. There is something enthralling seeing the sun shine through the mist rise above the marsh as day breaks, followed by hearing the rustle of the forest canopy waving in approval of a watchful eye to the setting, which includes the crescendo of calls from variety of birds who soar and dart. When the sweat forms on your brow there is nothing quite like taking that first savoury taste of ice cream on a cone. All of these things make summer for me stand out.

Let's focus on what we hear.

Summer in town (Haliburton and even Gooderham – particularly when Gooderham hosted its music festival) really comes alive to anyone willing to listen. Music is a powerful thing that hits at our core. It's an

integral aspect that provides a depth to summer that just doesn't exist in the dead of winter. Yes, there are indoor performances and the natural sounds of life are there when the temperatures plummet, but it's far more difficult to hear and to embrace (when you're not inclined to dress for 15 minutes in preparation). There's a quality to being able to walk out your door and down the street and hear the life, the spirit that comes from a human voice during a country concert or an operetta.

This past week while taking photos of the Highland Opera Studio singers who performed at the St. George Anglican Church in Haliburton it was clear by listening this day was a unique opportunity for residents in the Highlands to hear all the beauty and depth of music that is available. Between the performances of the singers, there was an entire set of music being staged by Haliburton's Ryan VanLieshout, country star in the making at the bandshell across the road for the weekly Music at the

Park series.

It was one of those days when you could be at your home and be oblivious about the opportunity to have your soul touched regardless of the genre of music you're interested in.

There is life in the form of the arts, whether its live theatrical and musical performances at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion by virtue of the Highlands Summer Festival or the numerous live music options held throughout the county at public and private venues.

William Shakespeare said it best from the Twelfth Night, "If music be the food of love, play on."

Eat up. There's plenty to digest and savour.



darren lum

Editorial



Fungi find

by Darren Lum

And then a door opened

SOMETIMES WHEN I write a story I worry I won't do it justice. So I take a deep breath and carry on. I imagine myself being guided by love and trust that I will find the words. This is a story about so many things. Love. Friendship. A lifetime of dedicated work. History. Celebration. The church. And really good treats and music.

On Aug. 7, I had the pleasure of attending a book launch at the Castle Antique Cafe. I was there because my good friend Jim Blake had invited me. He had written a book called *And Then a Door Opened* about the life of his good friend, Norm Thomas. Norm has led a full, interesting and challenging life as a United Church Minister. His story spans 90 years, and takes the reader across our great country and through the history of his relationship to the United Church. I also had a personal connection to the book because my step father-in-law (Bob Ballantyne), is in the book and is part of the story. Approximately 50 people gathered for the launch. It was a beautiful community event.

As Jim and Norm shared their stories of writing the book together, and read passages from the book (which made the audience laugh out loud numerous times) I could see we were witnessing a beautiful friendship between two storytellers and the immense respect and love they have for each other. Norm was ordained as a United Church Minister in 1959 and he lived in 24 communities from Malpeque, P.E.I to Alberni, B.C. before he

arrived in Minden at the age of 72.

And Then a Door Opened is the story of Norm's extraordinary life and his involvement in the communities he lived in as he worked his way across this great country of ours. I'm currently reading the book and as Jim writes in the forward "this process has taken me from the Protestant Reformation in Great Britain to coal mining in Cape Breton, from car manufacturing in Windsor, Ontario, to community activism in Toronto,

from the oil boom in Alberta to the ordination of LGBTQ+ ministers, from the creation of a UNESCO biosphere to the civil war in Nicaragua and so much more".

It is the story of Norm, who walked through many doors in his career, to build relationships and work

for change in all the communities he lived in. Prior to the book launch I had never met Norm but when I went up to introduce myself he treated me like we were old friends. His warmth and kindness jumped right out of his heart and into mine. I'm always contemplating how kindness, compassion and friendliness make a difference in every situation and circumstance. Like Norm, we all have interesting lives and we each have an important role to play in our families, with our friends in our work, our community and for the planet. We all make a difference. We all have a story to tell. *And Then a Door Opened* is available at our local library.

Tales from
the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

Aiming high

“YOU CAN’T call the fire department just to rescue an arrow from a tree,” Jenn said, quite insistently.

“Are you sure?” I replied. “They rescue cats all the time.”

“Cats and arrows are in no way similar,” she claimed.

“Then why do they both need rescuing from trees?” I countered.

Pro tip: This is the type of unassailable logic that causes your spouse to shake her head and confiscate your phone.

It also left me with no other choice than to ask her to help me retrieve the arrow.

You could hardly blame me. I had already tried the usual things: shaking the tree, throwing branches at the precariously perched arrow, yelling, and trying to induce a cat to climb the tree so the fire department would have to show. I even tried knocking the arrow down with an 8-foot one by two, but my reach left me short by about 4-feet.

So, I enlisted Jenn’s help.

“Why make this my problem?” she asked.

“Because you are freakishly tall,” I said.

“I’m only 5-foot-9,” she replied.

Maybe that’s not tall in some cultures, but at my family gatherings, Jenn is considered a Frost Giant. Also, while I love her for a multitude of reasons, I won’t lie, her ability to reach the top shelf was also a definite selling point.

Unfortunately, she also has an inquisitive mind – which is great when you catch a big fish, but not so welcome when you have to explain things like, “How the



steve
galea

Loon Tales

heck did that arrow land 18-feet up a spruce tree?”

I attempted to explain.

“In the normal way. I was shooting my longbow from 15 yards at the target when I realized that I needed to start practicing from different random distances to be more effective in the field. So, when I retrieved my arrow, I decided I would throw it up in the air and shoot at the target from wherever it landed.”

“So now you want me to watch you climb the tree and shoot?” she asked.

“Gosh no!” I answered. “That would be dangerous. I was wondering if you could climb the tree for me.”

She went silent – I’m guessing to think about it, and where she went wrong.

“You just need to climb up a few feet and use your gift of height to reach it,” I explained.

It turned out, this was a “not even a remote” possibility, which is perhaps the worst kind of possibility.

I was however able to hand her the one by two and direct her as she attempted to beat the offending branches.

“This is embarrassing,” she said. “The neighbours must think I hate trees.”

“Look, it’s not like I get things tangled in high places all the time,” I said.

That’s when she reminded me of the fly line I caught in our phone line. And the dog’s training dummy which was still high up in the little oak tree. And the Frisbee in the poplar. And the ...

“Accidents happen,” I interrupted.

“And every time you do this, I have to help you get the things down,” she replied.

Then, after several attempts, most of which just missed me, she used the one by two to knock the arrow out of the tree.

I thanked her profusely and picked up my bow and took a shot from where the arrow landed. And, afterwards I paced it off.

The range was exactly 15 yards.



pic of the past

Bailey’s Dam - Ron Davies of Haliburton (1930 to 1994) stands on the newly-built dam constructed in 1946 for W.O. Bailey on the Drag River, Haliburton Village, at what is today’s Emmerson Lumber. The dam’s present owner, Kim Emmerson, had the dam refurbished and held a dedication ceremony in 2013. The two houses in the background are the present offices of Vasey Insurance Brokers Limited and Bishop and Rogers law office, with the Lou Consy’s house at the extreme right. The truck in the background, at left, is believed to be the International owned by Bailey that was used by his son Cec and fellow workmen to haul gravel from the pit at nearby Fox’s Corner for use in construction of the dam. The dam started to produce hydro-electric power in 2018. The image was courtesy of Jack Johnston of Haliburton (1931 to 2015), who was a long-time employee of Emmerson Lumber. He took the photos as a boy during the time he worked at Dart’s Bakery in town from the mid-1940s and early-1950s and then later provided the opportunity to have his images scanned and archived by the Haliburton Highlands Museum. /Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Museum’s Steve Hill

letters to the editor

Leadership needs next generation

To the Editor,

In regards to the July 26 article *Vacant council nomination positions concern Roberts*, I would like to have a letter to the editor included in support and toward action for this concern ...

Options for leadership mentoring ...

Technology has improved communication, some positive and some not, in recent years. The situation we face with the lack of political leadership and volunteers in general indicates there has been a major shift happening in our communications and training. The July 26 article *Vacant... concerns ...* needs our attention. It is possible to change mentoring to include future generations.

Mentorship is a progressive experiential learning of skills that are important to a community or organization. Locally, Rotaract, agriculture and other like groups are trying to do this. Leadership takes mentoring as well as humility to be effective. A perceived lack of younger volunteers to run in any of our elections indicate a disconnect with training the next generation of community lead-

ers and volunteers. What lies ahead for our community when there are no new leaders coming forward?

We can encourage and support volunteers to honestly handle the challenges with the issues of housing, healthcare and environment. We each can do something to encourage leadership dealing with these issues. Any business has a time of training and mentoring. There are only a few more days for this cycle of election to encourage some younger talent with skills needed, to sign up for leadership. The skills in business and volunteer organizations can translate into municipal leadership. Who can you encourage to be leaders for our community?

We thank those who have been in positions of leadership. Now is the time to support those willing to sacrifice what it takes to represent us with mentoring new leadership.

Hopeful, Jean Schlicklin-Tyler.
Haliburton



Have a thought, comment or opinion
you’d like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
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Letters to the Editor note: Submissions must not exceed 300 words, and are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

County library's service delivery shifts into high gear

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Chris Stephenson believes a dedicated vehicle will bring multi-faceted growth to the Haliburton County Public Library.

And Stephenson, the library's chief executive officer and chief librarian, rallied the HCPL board of directors to open the purse to buy a van costing up to \$40,000.

"We're at the point where we need to make some decisions," he said as part of the second of two presentations regarding the need for a new van dedicated to library services.

The library currently shares a van with other Haliburton County departments. It's 11 years old and has about 207,000 kilometres behind it. Or staff and volunteers use their own vehicles for library service delivery.

Stephenson said a vehicle dedicated solely to the library would lead to growth in many ways. And, given the library service's financial footing, a new van could be bought without having to dip into reserve funds, he said.

The library has a stable staff contingent, no shelf space to buy more books, and the computer equipment has life left. That means there are no such expenses in the offing, he said. And there are few other avenues for libraries to spend budgeted funds.

"Our 2022 budget will still balance," he said.

In the end, the board went with Stephenson's recommendation to buy a Dodge Ram ProMaster City Van. The upfront costs are pegged to be \$38,440. The total costs over a seven-year lifecycle are calculated to be \$84,052.

That was the vehicle deemed to be more suitable to what's required by the library.

The other contenders seriously considered for purchase were a Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle and a Toyota RAV 4 Prime gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle.

"It's good for an organization that criss-crosses the county all year to have regular access to a vehicle," Stephenson said.

But the vehicle has to meet certain specifications.

Given the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the county, the Bolt and even a hybrid choice is rendered an unwise choice. And, given the volume of book bins and

other programming materials transported throughout the county, cargo space is paramount.

"We're a small system covering a wide geography," Stephenson said.

Staff routinely ship between 10 to 15 book bins, various pieces of office furniture, and other program material to varied branch locations.

"We're also returning to pre-pandemic levels of service," Stephenson said.

That means as many as 17 to 20 extra book bins to be lugged about the county. To ask staff and volunteers to haul that kind of freight with their personal vehicles increases wear and tear on family cars.

Warden Liz Danielsen, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said buying an electric vehicle would be environmentally conscious in an age of climate change awareness. At the very least, she'd like to see a hybrid vehicle bear the library colours.

But Danielsen said it's simply the wrong time to buy

an electric vehicle given the dearth of charging stations in the county.

Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts agreed.

"We should be getting a vehicle that best suits our needs," Roberts said.

Stephenson suggested there may soon be such changes in the automobile market that an electric vehicle that could meet high cargo demands would be available.

"I think things will advance significantly in the next five to six years," said David O'Brien, a library board member.

Besides, said Roberts, the board doesn't have to keep the gas-only van for the whole seven-year lifecycle that's been projected for each option. A future library board may consider trading it in three or four years, she said.

"I think this will be a huge asset to the library," said Sally Howson, a library board member.

Stephenson said: "It's going to be a huge game-changer in terms of what we're able to do."

Bowl for Kids' Sake is back with a splash

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Staff Reporter

Grab your favourite pool attire, a group of friends, and head over to the Fast Lane Bowling alley, located at 12281 Highway 35 in Minden on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to raise funds to support youth mentorship in the Haliburton County.

Bowl for Kids' Sake, a fundraiser event for Big Brothers and Big Sisters (BBBS) of Kawartha Lakes – Haliburton's mentoring programs, is returning after a two-year hiatus.

"Over the last two years we have experienced an increase in demand for our service throughout the County of Haliburton. We are working to increase services we provide. This summer we are offer a Ready for High School program in August at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. With the funds raised at Bowl for Kids' Sake, we hope to expand our In School Mentoring Program to schools throughout the area," said BBBS of Kawartha Lakes – Haliburton executive director Janice Balfour in a press release for the event.

BBBS mentoring programs are designed to help children and youth in need of an additional supportive relationship and pairs them with a volunteer adult mentor.

Rawn Moore has been a BBBS mentor in Haliburton County a number of years.

"Mentoring? Fabulous. If you have the chance to do it, you should do it. It is very rewarding, and I feel very fortunate with the matches I've had over the years, and the one I have now I've had for nine or 10 years. I think men-

toring is a very important role, and kids have to know that they have a place that they can go to talk it out," Rawn said.

Prizes will be awarded to those wearing the best pool attire as well as those who received the most pledges.

"Dress up in whatever you'd wear to your pool party, and we'll have fun prizes for best team costume and best individual costume. We have lots of room for lots of people to sign up still," Balfour said.

Each team must raise a minimum of \$40 in pledges per team member, and BBBS of Kawartha Lakes – Haliburton has a goal to raise \$15,000.

Balfour said, "Typically it was done in the winter, but we wanted to try it in the summer this year to see if we could get some more visitors and make it a little bit of a bigger event this year."

Balfour said Bowl for Kids' Sake has been a signature event for BBBS Canada for more than 40 years.

Chiara Moore, event and community engagement coordinator for BBBS of Kawartha Lakes – Haliburton, said there will be a silent auction at the event featuring items donated by local Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes businesses.

"We have signed celebrity memorabilia, mainly athletics, and then we also have tickets donated by Peterborough Liftlock Cruises that will be going into our silent auction," Chiara said.

Participants can register teams of four or six up until the day of the event at www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/big-brothers-big-sisters-of-kawartha-lakes-haliburton-inc/p2p/BFKSH2022.

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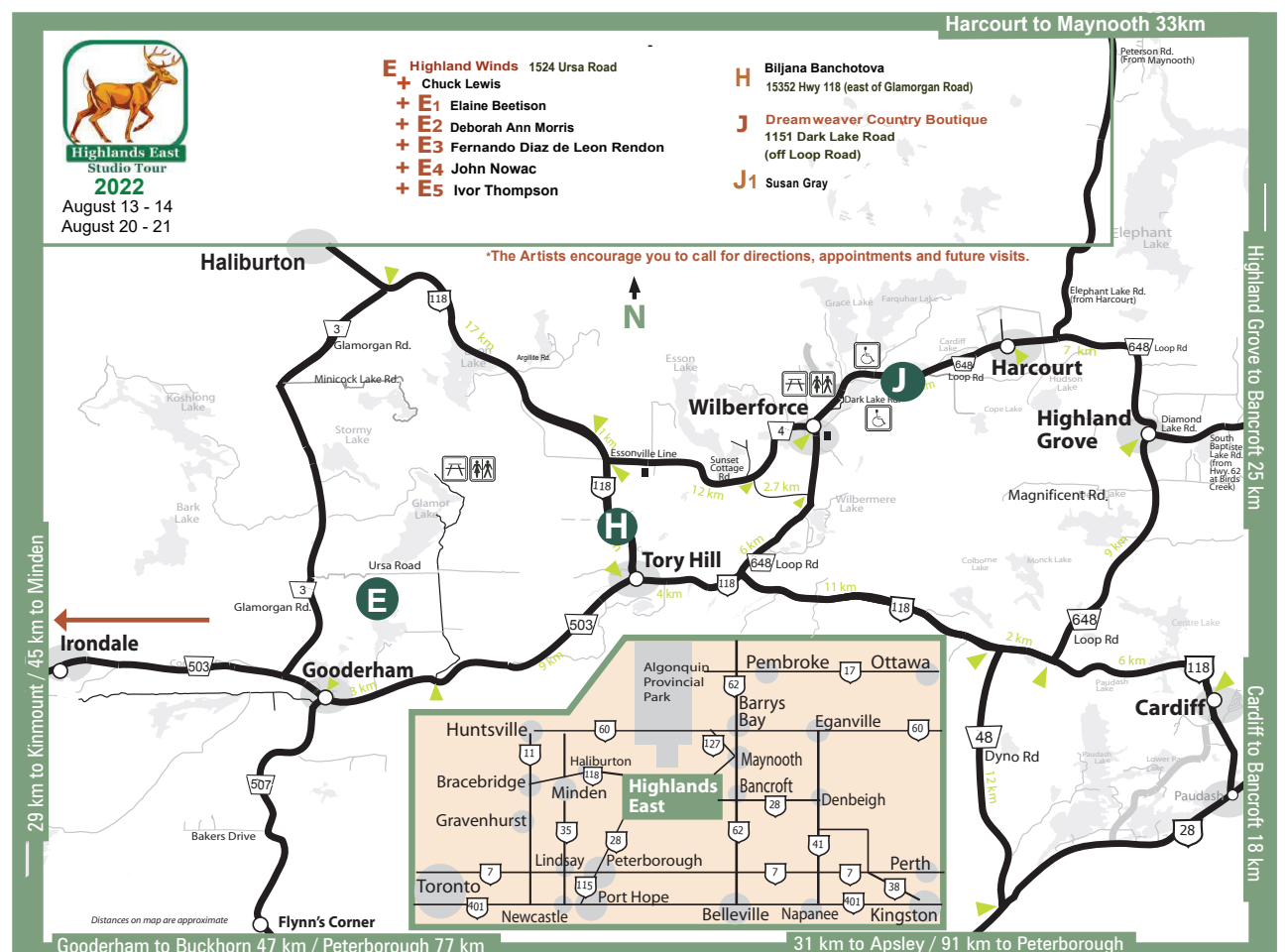
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Have a Safe and Healthy Summer!



Return of the greatest spectacle for Haliburton County

GRACE OBORNE

Special to the Echo

The most sold-out show for Minden Pride week returns this year for a night of dancing, sing-a-longs, and more.

Viva Burlesque is one of the most successful shows in Haliburton County. The sold-out Burlesque Ball will take place on the last weekend of Pride week at the Pinestone Resort in Haliburton on Friday Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Minden Pride is a volunteer-driven and non-profit organization in Haliburton County. Every August, Minden Pride hosts their annual week-long festival with many different events to celebrate the diversity of Haliburton County's community. The first time Viva Burlesque was held for Pride Week in Minden was in 2019 and it had an overwhelming success.

"The last time it was done was in 2019, and it was a huge success then. It sold out quite quickly and people just really, really, really had a lot of fun and enjoyed the quality of performances, which were incredible. We wanted to do it again and we're really hoping that we could replicate that the last time. That's what we're going to do," chair of the Minden Pride Committee, Allan Guinan said.

The co-owner of Russell Red Records in Haliburton and organizer of Viva Burlesque, Collin Burke, says that the whole experience was an enjoyable surprise, encouraging the show to come back for another time.

"That last time we did it ... it was just like, on a wing and a prayer. Nobody knew what we were doing, and everything went incredibly well. So, this year fingers crossed, everything goes as great as last time."



This year, Viva Burlesque returns for Minden Pride week. The event will feature local performers, some of Toronto's biggest stars in the drag scene, and new, exciting surprises. /Submitted.

Drag shows are typically staged in nightclubs or Gay Pride festivals. Drag queens, who are men dressed in women's clothes and makeup, perform before an audience often with upbeat dancing and music.

Tickets for Burlesque are available exclusively from Russell Red Records, at \$45 per person. One can purchase their ticket either in person at 173A Highland Street in Haliburton, or online.

The popular show will be hosted by Carlotta Carlisle, with performances from famous Toronto drag stars including, Katrinka Kature, Perla, Vitality Black, and local star, the beloved Plum Vicious.

About 14 years ago, Plum Vicious was the first to perform a drag show in Min-

den to start breaking down barriers.

"I was the first person to drag up here, moons ago. It's kind of been a thing of breaking down barriers in the neighborhood here. Performing is fun, but it's more just making people aware that not everybody necessarily maybe seems how they look. There is always a surprise in the closet," Plum Vicious said.

A local hairdresser and entrepreneur by day, Plum Vicious has been performing not only in Haliburton County, but across Canada for more than 25 years. She grew up in Minden, moved to Toronto, then eventually found herself back in Minden. She also has story times where she reads to children at libraries in the local area. There, she is known as Auntie Plum.

Plum Vicious was inspired to enter the world of drag from her love of theatre and her daytime jobs of hairstyling and costuming.

"I've been doing drag for years and years, so for me, I got into it just as a creative outlet. You know, it is basically theatre really. It's just theatre with a twist. I was also doing hair and costuming and that sort of thing, so I was doing a lot of Queens stuff, but just wasn't really doing it myself, until I was."

During a week like Minden Pride, the Viva Burlesque event plays a crucial part in the meaning of it all. Drag, though fun, is a form of expression Guinan said.

"From my perspective, drag is just about a free expression. It's just allowing people to express themselves in a creative and interesting manner. We want that for everyone, [and not just people who] want to perform and drag, but for people who want to be able to dress how they want to dress, live how they want to live, and love who they want to love. Drag demonstrates that idea just in a bigger, flashier form," said Guinan.

For Plum Vicious, performing is exciting and fun. Her favourite part of drag is its uniqueness.

"I would say my favourite part is just expressing differently than how I would express in the shop or express just walking down the street. It just gives me a different avenue. Drag can sometimes be that ultimate way to find a bit of escapism into the ability to express yourself in a way that you wouldn't typically be able to. You know, for me, it's just about having fun too."

To purchase tickets online, visit www.russellredrecords.ca/shop/view-single-item/VIVA-BURLESQUE

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Minden Pride is a celebration of community

This year's event is Loud and Proud in 2022!

DARREN LUM

Editor

Love is at the heart of the upcoming Minden Pride week of festivities hosted in the Highlands.

The chair of Minden Pride Allan Guinan invites the public to this year's Minden Pride series of events, which he characterized as a "really fun and feel good event."

"There's lots of goodwill. If you want to come out and see some talent and some interesting things then I would suggest coming out to Minden Pride because there's lots of fun stuff going on," he said.

Guinan said Minden Pride's attribute is how it is a "grassroots type of event," so it will appeal to people who don't like the city pride events such as Toronto Pride.

When Guinan sees the Progress Pride flag raised on Monday, Aug. 22 at the Township of Minden Hills office he said it not only represents the start of the Pride week, but also the community's support.

"[The raising of the flag represents] the importance of Minden Pride in the community and the fact the community has been so supportive of us for the last seven years. So, to me, it's a really very important event," he said.

He adds the flag will fly for at least the duration of the Minden Pride week. A coffee reception will follow at the Up River Trading Co. on Bobcaygeon Road in town.

Later that day (Aug. 22), Healing Colours, a queer wellness night at Dimensions, is at the Dimensions Algonquin Highlands retreat from 5 to 8:30 p.m. There will be an opportunity to meet the team and to go on a guided site tour and an opportunity to sample wellness sessions. Space is limited. Dimensions is a presenting sponsor of Minden Pride.

There will be a Meet and Greet with the organizing committee members, and the members of the charitable organization, the Rainbow Railroad on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 5 p.m. at the Boshkung Social.

Drag Storytime returns with Auntie Plum like other years with two dates, one at the Dysart branch in Haliburton on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. and the other at the Minden branch on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 3 p.m.

"The library is a welcoming space where inclusion, intellectual freedom and respect are championed as part of our mission and values. This family-friendly program is a library tradition with a focus on diversity and fun for all ages," said Christopher Stephenson, Library CEO at Haliburton County Public Library in a press release provided by the HCPL and Minden Pride.

Guinan said the Drag Storytime has been successfully run for four years as part of the week of festivities.

"The stories being read to the children will address ideas of free expression and underline the importance



Auntie Plum listens to a young girl ask questions during last year's Storytime held at the Minden Hills library branch. This year's Storytime is at the Dysart branch on Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. and then at the Minden Hills branch on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 3 p.m. /DARREN LUM Staff FILE

of being open and accepting of everyone regardless of their differences," Guinan said in the release.

"Both Minden Pride and the HCPL have been targeted with homophobic and discriminatory comments made by those in the community who see this type of performance as being threatening toward children and/or promoting a sexual agenda. Rest assured, this will be a fabulous and family-oriented experience, open to people of all ages. We encourage community members to come out and show support for diversity, equality, and inclusiveness in the Haliburton Highlands," per the joint from HCPL and Minden Pride release.

On Aug. 24 there will be the Queer Comedy Night hosted at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 Haliburton club room at 7:30 p.m. It includes comedians Hillary Yaas, Robert Watson, Heather Mariko and Dylan Mahaney. This is a 19-plus event. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Tickets are limited. Purchase tickets at Up River Trading in Haliburton or Minden and at the Wolf Moon Shop Minden.

On Thursday, Aug. 25 there will be the Drag Cocktails, which will be hosted by Plum Vicious at 5 p.m. at the EAT Cheeserie + Cocktails and it will serve as a primer for the Trivia Night at 7 p.m. at the Dominion Hotel on Bobcaygeon Road in Minden.

Among the events Guinan is anticipating is the Pride River Parade.

It starts at the Rotary Park, on the Gull River and goes to the vehicle bridge in Minden at 12:30 p.m.

"Another event we're really excited about this year is the Pride River Parade. We started it last year as kind of a test, but this year, we're really hoping that we're gonna get a lot more people behind it and get a lot of people out onto the river on Sunday," he said.

He adds the setting is ideal for the floating parade through town, which starts at the Rotary Park, located a few minutes north of town on Highway 35.

"I think it's just really fun that people come out and show their own support in their own way for Pride. And that's for all of us. Should be lots of fun. Hopefully, we're going to have people participate, and people observing along the river. We'll have prizes for the most creative and the most imaginative floats. Should be a fun day," he said.

After the parade there will be the Street Fest from 1 to 3 p.m. on Water Street in Minden. The Street Fest

includes children's activities and face painting, and more than 20 local food and product vendors, including entertainers.

Per the event flyer: "Watch the Pride Parade. Come for the fest and enjoy all the rest!"

The very popular Viva Burlesque Show returns at the Pinestone Resort at the Grill on the Gull patio on Friday, Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. This will be a showcase of several drag performers, including the Highlands' Plum Vicious. It is a 19-plus event. Tickets are \$45. Purchase tickets at Russellredrecords.ca.

Toolbelts and Tiaras Tea Dance, including a silent auction is from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the next day on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Grill on the Gull patio in Minden. From promotional material: "Shake your booty to some great tunes, show off your inner diva and take part in our AMAZING silent auction."

He said there was support for the return of the burlesque show, which is sure to draw a crowd for the spectacle and for how it fulfills a demand.

"I think everyone is ready to get out and celebrate and enjoy life again," he said.

Guinan said for all the "feel good things" related to Minden Pride there is also a serious aspect that can't be overlooked, whether it's advocating against conversion therapy or raising awareness about how homophobia still exists.

"We're there because of homophobia and hate crimes that have occurred in the past and are still occurring and occurred all across Ontario this year, and small communities. So, from our perspective, it's important that we are politically active, we are addressing those things where there is still work to be done," he said. "There's still hatred out there and is what our community experiences. So, from our perspective it's important to do the good work and to make sure that people know that there are issues that still need to be considered and addressed."

Guinan said this is where the "Loud and Proud" theme of this year's event comes from.

"It's been pretty quiet for a couple of years. We've had some sort of presence. But I think everyone now wants to move forward and continue to have the support that we've had in the county. I think that is critical."

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Artfully done

Chuck Lewis is the owner of Highland Winds Studio and works with ink and watercolour as well as oil paint. The Highlands East Studio tour features nine artists at three different locations on the weekend of Aug. 13 and 14 and continues this weekend Aug. 20 to 21. Learn more at highlandseastartour.com and see the tour's map of location in today's *Echo* and *County Life*. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Fernando Diaz de Leon Rendon explains his process for creating his artwork to a Highlands East Studio Tour visitor.



Artist John Nowak points to details in his most recent commissioned acrylic painting.



Classical music flooded Chuck Lewis' studio where a recent oil painting was on display.



Mixed-media artist Elaine Beetison is from England, but recently moved to her cottage in the Highlands and is stationed at the Highland Winds Studio on the Highlands East Studio Tour.

Public input needed for mental health and addiction services

A new project is being developed in Haliburton County surrounding the issues of mental health, addiction and access to social and community services. If you are someone who has experienced these issues and required or tried to obtain help in our area, Tom Regehr would like to hear from you.

Facilitator, Regehr is the gentleman spearheading this project on behalf of Haliburton County social service initiatives; in an effort to bring people together with health issues like himself and share their experiences, both successes and failures. Tom himself has accessed many social service programs through the years for mental health needs, addiction and homelessness. His lived experience is valuable and demonstrates his strength and commitment to wellness.

Social and community service programs always need re-evaluation and improvements to grow and meet a community's needs; being part of the change by simply sharing your stories with Tom can do that.

What would you like these programs to know about you and your experience? How did they make you feel? What services have you tried to access and what worked? What didn't work? If you needed help but didn't seek any, why didn't you? The service providers in our community want to improve and provide the best support they can so here is your chance to share and bring about change.

There are a few ways to participate; by attending Listening Sessions which include Tom and only those who wish to share their story. No service providers, medi-

cal professionals or community service agencies will be in attendance. This is an opportunity to chat, listen and move forward with your experience. Coffee, tea and food provided.

Listening Session one (evening) is on Thursday, Aug. 25 at the Lions Club in Minden and Listening Session 2 (lunch) is on Friday, Aug. 26 in Haliburton. Haliburton location to be announced soon.

If you are uncomfortable with a gathering in person, please email Tom directly to begin a conversation on the things that matter to you. Your questions and feedback are essential. regehr@cast-canada.ca

Submitted by Tim Tofflemire of Job Quest, a division of Community Living Trent Highlands

Penny Hartin is fighting for disability inclusion and human rights



Three years ago, Accessibility Standards Canada was born out of the *Accessible Canada Act (the Act)*. Its mandate: create accessibility standards that remove and prevent barriers in areas under federal jurisdiction. Unlike most federal departments, a nine-member board of directors leads the organization. They represent the community well, as a majority live with a disability. All of them are accessibility allies.

One of those board members is Penny Hartin, originally from Haliburton, Ontario. Penny grew up on a farm in the Haliburton Highlands in cottage country. She was born with a visual impairment and throughout her life, has had three guide dogs: Olliana, Chicory, and now, Honour. Professionally, she spent 27 years with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, working in five provinces. In 2006, she was named the first chief executive officer of the World Blind Union. Now retired, she is still very active and involved in the visually impaired community.

Penny Hartin, who is originally from Haliburton, has dedicated her life to fighting for disability inclusion and human rights. /Submitted by Mathieu Gorley

What she brings as a board member: a lifetime of lived experience as a woman with a disability, and a decade of involvement in standards development.

"My career centred on protecting human rights, inclusion, and disability rights laws. This was largely due to challenges I faced every day as a woman with a disability. It was also because I never felt that accessibility was the priority it needed to be. At Accessibility Standards Canada, we are changing the culture by guaranteeing accessibility remains top of mind."

Recognizing the abilities of people with disabilities

Before becoming an accessibility advocate, Penny went to teacher's college. Even though she had to overcome many barriers, like reading small print on exams, she excelled in all of her classes. Perhaps the biggest barrier she had to face though was the misconception of her abilities. She was told she would not be able to teach because of her disability. This preconception inspired Penny to become an advocate for herself and her abilities, but also for others.

"People with disabilities should have the right to participate in their community, in any capacity they choose. However, we need a system that includes us so we can reach our full potential. Accessibility Standards Canada has taken big strides toward that reality. We have built a strong foundation and our priorities are relevant. The standards we are developing are only touching the surface of what we can do."



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Momentum for a barrier-free Canada is building

On Sep. 20, Accessibility Standards Canada is having its second annual public meeting. This is a chance for the public to hear from Board members on their work and plans for the future.

Every Canadian has an important role to play in a barrier-free Canada. Your participation in breaking down accessibility barriers is essential. Penny, her guide dog Honour, and her colleagues want you to join them on Sep. 20.

"If the community isn't involved, then they are not part of the solution. Only together can we move the needle forward. This meeting is an opportunity to get informed on what has been happening so far, and the steps needed to build the foundation to create standards. Most importantly, to know how to get involved. We need and depend on the expertise of all Canadians, and those with lived experience."

Join us and learn about how you can make a difference. To register for Accessibility Standards Canada's annual public meeting, visit their website.

Submitted by Mathieu Gorley

WANTED

Historical photos from around Haliburton County

Preferably from before 1970

Help revive our *Pic of the Past* section by sending in your pictures. Bring them in to the Echo office at 146 Highland Street or email them to darren@haliburtonpress.com with dates and any other information.

Reaching to be the star

Singing phenom hoping to use stage to further passion to save planet

DARREN LUM

Editor

Haliburton's Ella Gooley is aiming to be the best at this year's CNE's annual Rising Star Competition.

Ella submitted a video clip of her performing the *Fight Song* recently, which was originally performed by Rachel Platten, who co-wrote with Dave Bassett. Her entry was judged on ability, audience appeal, stage presence and the quality of her performance.

When she learned about how she was able advance from more than 200 junior contestants, aged six to 21 to reach the final 48 of performers for preliminary round she said, "I'm very excited and honoured to play."

She will perform the *Fight Song* while playing piano for a panel of judges at the CNE on Aug. 20 for the chance to earn a spot in the semi-finals, which is from Aug. 29 to 30. If successful, she will perform in the finals for a chance to a win \$1,000 at the Enercare Centre on Saturday, Sept. 3.

The 12-year-old aspiring singer has a dream to be a professional singer. She has studied music since she was three-year-old. You may recognize her as Louisa von Trapp from the local staging of the Sound of Music, as part of the Highlands Summer Festival.

She said her interest in music started when at three she saw her Nanna play the piano, who she asked to give her lesson. Another connection with music came from her dad, Grant Gooley who was in a rock band, the Prefect.

She selected the *Fight Song* because of how it resonated to her for its theme of battling through challenges.

"It reminded me of fighting and how everybody fights and I want to fight for the Earth," she said.

The greatest threat facing the Earth, the Toronto born singer said, is global warming.

Her efforts to gain recognition with her voice and musicality isn't just to showcase her talents, but to be part of a solution for the Earth her father said. She's covering a song now, but the passion is at the core of her development, which includes songwriting.

"It's about helping the Earth, but the songwriting will come after because she hasn't got there yet. But she's got a lineup of like, six or seven songs now that they're all covered. And now the next step is to start getting her ideas and thoughts down on paper so she can start writing," he said.

Her father said his daughter takes it to heart when it comes to passion to save the planet.

"If she ever sees anybody pollute or litter, it's like she's depressed for the afternoon," he said.

"I want to show people that the world needs help," she said.

In a short time she has racked up several achievements. At five, she wrote a song that earned her a second place in all of Eastern Ontario in the Music for Young Children writing contest (and her song published). The aspiring singer is working towards her Grade 3 in conservatory vocals and Grade 5 conservatory for piano. Since October of last year, Ella has been the anthem singer for the Haliburton County Huskies. In May 2022, Ella won the Keynote Award for Musicianship at the North Hastings Music Festival. She'd love to add the title of the top star at the Rising Star Competition to further her goal of saving the planet. The more attention she gets the greater the opportunity to raise awareness, she added. After this competition she has her sights set on America's Got Talent.

Gooley said her daughter's worth ethic and dedication to music has left him in awe.

"She's definitely inspiring me every day and she crafts her message. As somebody who is 12-years-old and so dedicated to something that means so much to so many people. It's inspiring me. She has to work very hard. And, you know, I have to be in the top 10 per cent to make it in this industry and I was there and it was really difficult. And Emma understands what she has to go through to get there. And so it's been inspiring to see

her do all the things that I didn't do."

Winning the Rising Star Competition would be right up there among her other achievements she said.

"It would mean a lot. I think it would probably be up there on my record," she said.

Ella Gooley, 12, of Haliburton is looking to reach for the stars when she competes in CNE's Rising Star Competition on Aug. 20. From more than 200 performers, Ella, who loves to sing and play the piano (including sing the anthem for the Haliburton County Huskies), was chosen to be in the final 48. /Submitted by Grant Gooley



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Haliburton home to new bike share facility

The Rotary Club of Haliburton is pleased to announce the launch of a free, six bicycle Bike Share facility next to the historic caboose and Welcome Centre in Head Lake Park. Our grand opening is planned for Thursday, Aug. 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Welcome Centre but the bikes are now available for use.

There will be no cost for visitors or residents to use the bicycles, which can be unlocked with a smart phone by anyone over the age of 18. The project is intended to contribute our community's health and

well-being by encouraging safe, fun outdoor activity while enhancing and contributing to Haliburton's reputation as a fun tourist destination.

To unlock a bike, users need to download the ON Bike Share app onto their smart phone. Users are reminded to download the Canadian version of the app. Users are asked to provide a credit card as a security deposit, but the bikes are free to use for both Haliburton residents and visitors. Helmets are provided at no cost and users are strongly recom-

mended to use a helmet.

We anticipate most users will cycle along the Haliburton County Rail Trail. Usage of the bikes is limited to Dysart et al. Bikes are available for up to three hours at a time during daylight hours (currently 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. but the hours of operation will be amended as the days shorten). The Bike Share will be operational from mid-April until the end of the Thanksgiving weekend when they will be stored indoors for the winter.

The system is completely self-serve and does not require any staffing. However, the staff at the Welcome Centre would be happy to assist any visitors who need help unlocking a bike.

Haliburton Rotary owns all the bicycles, racks and associated hardware and will maintain the bicycles and system at no cost to the municipality with the assistance of our exclusive sponsor, Algonquin Outfitters. The bicycles are rugged, sturdy, and built to withstand outdoor weather conditions with minimal ongoing maintenance.

Acknowledgments:

Haliburton Rotary would like to thank our exclusive sponsor, Algonquin Outfitter. We would also like to thank Sunbelt Rentals, Leveque Brothers and Spencer Mathew Licenced Carpenter who provided labour, material and expertise in this project and the Municipality of Dysart et al, the County of Haliburton and the Haliburton County Echo for their support.

Background:

The Rotary Club of Haliburton has a long tradition of contributing to Haliburton's infrastructure.

Previous projections include, our historic locomotive in 1961, the Head Lake bandshell, the town clock (2013) and last year's Welcome Centre (2021). The vast

majority of Rotary's funding is raised within Haliburton and the club is committed to spending these funds for the benefit of Haliburton and its residents.

The Bike Share System:

Bike Share programs are popular in both large cities to promote public health and reduce traffic congestion and in smaller communities, to encourage recreation and tourism. A bike share system consists of a station consisting of a rack of bicycles specially manufactured for low maintenance durability, an electronic lock, user software to allow qualified users to unlock the bikes and administrative software to track the bicycles, users and usage of the system. Most large systems charge users an annual membership fee and/or an hourly fee to use a bicycle.

Our system, however, will be free to anyone over the age of 18 who has a smart phone and a credit card for a security deposit.

The supplier of our system is Dynamic Bicycles Inc. of Pawtucket, R.I who also installed the Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon Bike Share systems.

The system includes:

- Six seven-speed bicycles with white aluminum frames, seven-speed Shimano gear shifter, V-brakes, full coverage fenders, front basket with cup holder, chain guard, puncture resistant tires, bell, kickstand and rear wheel lock
- Six bluetooth electronic locks
- Three double-bike docking racks (two bikes per rack) with concrete mounting hardware
- Rider app for riders to access bikes (free downloads) and a maintenance app for the administrator

Submitted



FUNraisers furthering education

The Wilberforce FUNraisers are delighted to announce that there are two successful applicants for the Wilberforce FUNraisers Bursary this year. On July 27, Ezra Hill, from left, Nikita Watson each received their \$500 bursary at Hilda Clarke's bench on the porch of Agnew's General Store in Wilberforce. Ezra will be heading off to the University of Guelph this fall to begin their environmental engineering program, and Nikita will head out to the University of Ottawa for their honours bachelor of social science in criminology program in preparation for law school. The bursary helps our young people get started. The Wilberforce FUNraisers and the bursary winners thank the community for the support received for the program from our fundraising events and from private donors. /Submitted by Joan Barton


Haliburton & District Lions Club


presents

STORIES IN THE PARK FUN FAIR




Where? Head Lake Park, Haliburton

When? Wednesday, August 31, 2022
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

How: Safety continues to be our commitment to all who participate! We will once again follow all current COVID-19 protocols and requirements.

What:

- Individual, low impact, non-competitive games, such as: Bean Bag Toss, Fish Pond, Sidewalk Chalk Games, Mini Putt, Giant Pick Up Sticks and Ladder Toss and more!
- Free New Book for every child
- Balloons
- Guessing Games
- Photo Boards
- Story Reading at "The Story Tree"
- Free hot dogs, popcorn and juice boxes for all the children
- Participation by local community groups and organizations

FEATURED CHILDREN'S AUTHOR: IRENE DAVIDSON FISHER

YOU CAN FIND IRENE AT THE STORY TREE AT 12:15 PM & 1:15 PM



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Robbie Raccoon and The Big Black Blob
The Best Present Ever
Treasures From The Deep





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- Breathtaking Sunrise Views

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- 4 Season Screened-In Porch

SOLD

Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Hunter Creek Rd \$1,400,000

- Class B licensed pit & quarry
- 88 acres close to Minden
- Potential to sever lots

NEW LISTING




Andy Campbell
854-0292

Minden Home Overlooking Gull River

- \$569,000
- 5 beds / 3 Baths, 3100+ Sq Ft
- Walking Distance to Minden Village
- Potential for In-Law Suite

NEW PRICE




Gloria Carnochan* & Brean Budel*
754-1932

Percy Lake \$695,000

- 2.19 acre parcel with 155 ft frontage
- Southwest exposure
- Underground Hydro & Driveway installed
- Year Round Municipal Road

NEW LISTING




Mark Dennys*
457-0473

HALIBURTON HOME – \$519,900

- 0.52 Acres, 132 Ft Road Frontage, 1321 Sq Ft
- 3 Bdrm, 4 pc, Bath, Many Upgrades
- Attached Workshop, Metal Roof, Dbl Driveway
- Walk to Town Amenities, Minutes to Boat Launch

SOLD




Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Gull Lake \$1,299,000

- 4 bedroom / 1 Bathroom, 1100+ SqFt
- Insulated Bunkie at Waters' Edge
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Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Beech Lake \$849,000

- Open concept 3-season cottage with 4 bedrooms
- Oversized 1 car-garage with & updated bunkie
- Clean, hard-packed sand beach & big lake views
- Amazing afternoon sun & sunsets!

NEW PRICE




Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Miskwabi Lake \$699,900

- Great starter cottage
- Nicely level from cottage to water.
- Deep clean shoreline, western exposure
- Awesome 2-lake chain, Municipal road access

NEW PRICE




Ashley McKeigue
705-854-1833

McCrea Farm \$1,225,000

- 98-acre farm just 15 mins from Haliburton
- Lrg barn, stone foundation, fenced pastures
- New 1,500 SQ FT shop with 2 bay doors
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455-2054

Oblong Lake \$649,000

- 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
- Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
- Driveway installed & building site partially cleared
- Part of a 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton Lake

NEW PRICE




Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Haliburton Home \$849,000

- 4 Bed, 2 Bath open concept home
- 3000+ sq. ft; W/O Bsmt; AC, FP
- Close to town, snowmobile trails & lake
- Fibre Optic Internet; Dr. Well, Septic

NEW LISTING




Karen Nimigon*
457-6505

Kashagawigamog Lake \$825,000

- 4 Season, 2 Bed open concept cottage
- Hard Sand Shoreline; New Dock System
- 5 Lake Chain, close to Haliburton
- 2 outbuildings, town sewers & road

NEW PRICE




Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

Haliburton Condo \$749,000

- Luxurious waterfront condo in Haliburton
- 1117 sq ft, 2 bath, 2 bedrooms plus den/office
- Many upgrades plus incredible water views from every room!

SOLD




Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Lorraine Lake \$799,900

- 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 640 sq. ft.
- 14'x24' Deck w/ Excellent View of lake
- 12'x12' Bunkie w/ Hydro. Sleeps 4
- 10 Mins from Wilberforce & Gooderham

NEW LISTING




Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Modern Treehouse \$989,000



- 3 Bdrm/2 Bath, 2,400 Sq Ft
- Two 600 SF decks overlooking Drag River
- Facing South For All Day Sun
- Few Minutes From All Amenities of Town




Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Loon Lake \$499,000

- 2 Bdrm / 1Bath, 500 sqft
- 187 feet of Very Clean Waterfront
- Sits on 1.273 Acres
- Water Access Only

Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Wiley Lake \$349,000

- Secluded parcel with 130 FT of lake frontage
- Clean shoreline with North-Western exposure
- 2.3-acres to build your dream escape
- No motor lake with great fishing & paddling!

SOLD




Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

Bob Lake \$799,000

- Classic Haliburton Cottage
- fabulous lot with sun all day and great privacy
- morning and afternoon sand beaches




Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

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Opera opens hearts

River Guard finishes his performance of *Dein ist mein ganzes Herz* from *Das Land des Lachels* by Franz Lehar at the A Night at the Operetta on Tuesday, Aug. 9 at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton. The Operetta, which included 14 performers (and two accompanists), featured 17 songs. It was part of the Highlands Opera Studio season of offerings. See highlandsoperastudio.com for other performances. /DARREN LUM Staff



Hillary Tufford performs *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* at the A Night at the Operetta.



Nathan Keoughan, from left, and Lauren Margison hold each other, singing *If I Loved You* from *Carousel* by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammersten II.



Tamar Simon performs *The Hous Creep* on *Apace* from *H.M.S. Pinafore* by William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.



Geoffrey Schellenberg finishes his performance of *O Vaterland, du machst bei Tag*.



River Guard, from left, and Geoffrey Schellenberg perform *We're Called Gondolieri* from *The Gondoliers* by William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.

Local cyclist brings awareness to children's cancer

GRACE OBORNE

Special to the Echo

To make a difference in people's lives, not all heroes need to be wearing capes, but they can be sporting spandex and lycra while cranking out hope for others in need.

Katie Woodward isn't a mother and does not have any children who have endured the suffering that cancer causes. But she wants to help children and families who are being affected by cancer.

"I'm not a mother, but I've had family members who have passed from cancer. My husband deals with skin cancer, some friends struggle with it, and it's just a horrible, horrible thing. These are adults that I'm talking about, but I can't even imagine the kind of trauma and stress it causes for kids. When I saw this event come up, I just had to help," Woodward said.

In June, Woodward signed up to take part in the Great Cycle Challenge. The Great Cycle Challenge is a national SickKids Foundation fundraising initiative that is held throughout the month of August.

Cyclists choose their personal kilometre ride and can fundraise in different forms such as having a sponsor per kilometre. Woodward set her kilometre goal to 250 kilometre, and has already ridden 133.4 kilometres. She has asked friends and companies to sponsor her for each of the kilometres she completes.

Woodward's initial fundraising goal was \$4,000, but has since updated it to \$6,000 because friends, family, business, and others have been helping Katie in surpassing each goal. Before this change, Woodward has updated her goal from \$4,000 to \$5,000 because of the amount of donations she is receiving.

"These people have just been so generous. Even recently, I received a donation for \$480 from the Haliburton Highlands Chimney company and that had pushed me over my goal of \$4,000."

On Saturday Aug. 6, Woodward completed 45.2 kilometres for one of her rides for the month. She started from her home in Gelert and while stopping for a break at the Little Tart Bakery on Koshlong Lake Road, Woodward took the Haliburton County Rail Line to Haliburton.

The Haliburton and District Lions Club have sponsored Woodward in her journey to help fight children's cancer by donating \$250 to her fundraiser. Katie met the Lions Club at the airplane by Haliburton Highlands Secondary School during her 45.2 kilometre Haliburton and back ride.

"When I saw Katie's post on Facebook, I thought, how wonderful that she's doing this, and that the lions can support her and help her, so it's just been fun, so great," said chairperson for Lions Club, Gail Stelter.

This route is the only one that Woodward has planned. She mentions that she'll continue to reach her goal by doing what she loves weekly or even daily.

"I've always been a very busy person, but cycling, of course I can't ski in the summer, so I've had to find something else to do. Cycling has been it and I love it and then just fell in love with this challenge."

She continues, "I don't really have a ride planned afterwards; I'll just be going out during the week. I work from home, so I've got a really open schedule. This ride was just a bit more planned than what I normally do because I met up with the Lions club," Woodward said.

She encourages others to join her in the fight against children's cancer. To her, cycling seems like such an easy way for people to help and that anyone can do it.

"The about what I'm doing by cycling is not all that special. Literally anybody can do this. Whether they have an expensive bike, a cheap bike, a used bike, a friend's bike, anything like that, or whether they're doing one kilometre, 250, or 1,000. It's something that so many more people should be doing and it's that easy to do."

To follow along with Katie's rides, visit greatcyclechallenge.ca/Riders/KatieWoodward. To donate to her fundraising page, visit <https://greatcyclechallenge.ca/Donate/Rider/517030>.



Local resident, Katie Woodward, took off and rode a total of 45.2 kilometres for the Great Cycle Challenge Canada to fight children's cancer. The Haliburton and District Lions Club supported Woodward's efforts with a \$250 donation. Woodward has already ridden 93.4 kilometres of her 250 kilometre goal. /GRACE OBORNE Special to the Echo



Woodward, a local resident, is seen riding into Haliburton after riding a total of 45.2 kilometres for the Great Cycle Challenge Canada to fight children's cancer.



Crossword brought to you by

Ken Barry
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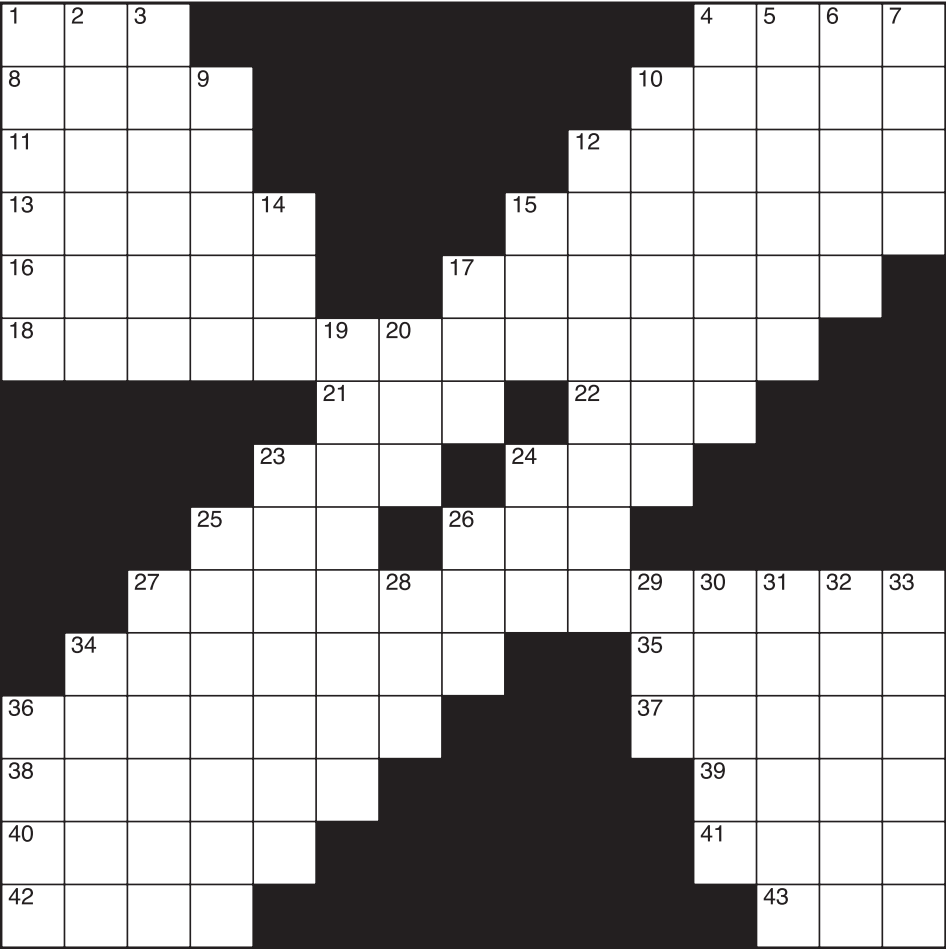
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"Out Standing In Our Field"



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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Autonomic nervous system
 - 4. Kids love it in summer
 - 8. Dashes
 - 10. Polynesian sarong
 - 11. Chapter of the Koran
 - 12. Evildoer
 - 13. Japanese commercial city
 - 15. A way of binding
 - 16. Early Christianity French historian
 - 17. Kids' term for bugs
 - 18. Beloved family holiday activity
 - 21. Work unit
 - 22. Bundle
 - 23. A number or amount not specified
 - 24. Military official (abbr.)
 - 25. Queens ballplayer
 - 26. Type of gibbon
 - 27. Norma Jean's stage name
 - 34. Places
 - 35. Bluish greens
 - 36. Argued publicly
 - 37. Having the shape of a cube
 - 38. They star at weddings
 - 39. Indian god associated with reproduction
 - 40. Ocean sunfishes
 - 41. Slowly leak through
 - 42. Plant part
 - 43. Midway between south and southeast
- CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Accumulate on the surface of
 - 2. Not a good feeling
 - 3. Got smaller
 - 4. Helped a golfer get around
 - 5. Military forces
 - 6. Partner to ways
 - 7. Low, one-horse sleigh
 - 9. Japanese seaport
 - 10. Inclined to favor
 - 12. Avid reader
 - 14. Lead singer of Heart
 - 15. Pigeon sound
 - 17. Vital part
 - 19. People who are not Jewish
 - 20. Shed tears
 - 23. Pokes holes in the ground
 - 24. Beverage receptacle
 - 25. Stone used to surface roads
 - 26. French-Belgian river
 - 27. Type of phone
 - 28. Long-lasting light bulb
 - 29. Type of medication (abbr.)
 - 30. German city
 - 31. Animal disease
 - 32. They're in martinis
 - 33. Get away from
 - 34. Dormouse
 - 36. Database management system
- Answers on page 22



The RPM Outboard Power Boat Races are returning to Head Lake Park in Haliburton this weekend for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. /FILE photo

Power Boat Races coming full speed ahead to Haliburton

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Staff Reporter

Those with a need for speed can find a thrill in watching this weekend's power boat races.

The 6th annual RPM Outboard Power Boat Races are coming to Head Lake in Haliburton from Friday, Aug. 19 to Sunday Aug. 21.

Local racer Wesley Hammond is competing in four categories in the Haliburton races this year.

The 25 year old has been competing in power boat races since he was 17, which is why he races with the number on his boat, and it's important to him to have races in Haliburton County.

"I'm excited to be racing here. I have lots of friends and family coming out to watch so it should be a really fun weekend," he said.

The races are sanctioned by the Canadian Boating Federation and are hosted by the Toronto Outboard Racing Club (TORC) as part of their summer circuit of races.

This year, the races have 36 sponsors and are back for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Haliburton County local, Barb Hammond (Wesley's mother), originally brought the power boat races to Haliburton and continues to be the event's organizer.

Barb is excited to host the event after being unable to since 2019.

"There's no prize money at the Haliburton races, so the racers do it for the love of racing. We give out trophies to the winners," she said. "This is a free event and is a fundraiser for the hospital auxiliary, which is in dire need of help because I believe it's not even running as the aux-

iliary. The lottery tickets for all the prizes we collect are going through the hospital because I think they're short of volunteers."

On Friday, racers and organizers will begin set-up for the races which will give spectators an opportunity to meet racers.

The races begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, and a banquet will be held on Saturday night at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre for 85 racers and guests.

Races continue on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at the event, and all proceeds will be given to the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary, and spectators are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the Hospital Auxiliary booth at the event.

RPM is the main sponsor of the Haliburton races with Youngdale Fuels as a sponsor for the four local competitors; Brandon Sutton in boat No. 13, Tammy Everitt in boat No. 34, and Barb's children, Wesley in boat No. 17 and Andrea Hammond in boat No. 38.

"Because they are a home-town fuel company, when I started this boat racing, years ago, I thought it would be a novel thing to have our home-town team sponsored by a local business," Barb said.

At the banquet, a 50/50 draw will be held, with half of the funds donated to the Auxiliary.

During the races, Haliburton RPM will allow boaters wanting access to Kashagawigamog Lake to use their docks and boat launch located at 5122 County Road 21 in Haliburton.

"We'd also like to let everyone know that when the boats are at top speeds, we try and get on and off the water as quickly as possible to reduce the amount of noise," Barb said.

Thank You!

The Rotary Club of Haliburton has had a very busy summer and we'd like to thank our sponsors, volunteers and supporters who have made our events and projects a great success. A special thank you to all our Rotary Club Members and their families & friends who work tirelessly to make Rotary happen in Haliburton. The biggest shout out goes to YOU for supporting the Rotary Club and our efforts in the community. Thank you!

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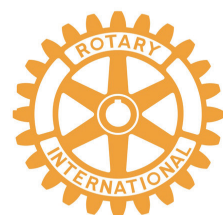
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Jocelyn Winter, Miss Teen Haliburton County

Haliburton
Rotary





The Haliburton Huskies players endure the "Beep Test" - an endurance running workout - during the fitness test day on Saturday, July 9 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The team's coaching staff uses the series of fitness tests from the day to establish a baseline of understanding for each player, which can be used for development purposes. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

Huskies unveil new roster

ALEX GALLACHER
Special to the Echo

After the inaugural 2021-22 Haliburton County Huskies season ended in play-off heartbreak, this off season the team set out to find new talent to replace the departing players. Four core members of the Huskies left the team due to aging out, starting goalie Christian Cicigoi, players Simon Rose, Nate Porter, who was the team's captain, and Payton Schaly. Forward and the team's top-scorer, Oliver Tarr accepted an NCAA Division 1 scholarship to Canisius College in Buffalo, forgoing his final year of Ontario Junior Hockey League eligibility to play college hockey.

While those players said goodbye to last year, a few more players announced

they would be leaving the county in pursuit of new opportunities. Local players Joe Boice and Ryan Hall are not with the team this season. Boice has left to pursue academics. Hall has chosen to pursue a career in firefighting and with the demands of Junior A hockey, playing for the Huskies was not going to be possible. Since his decision, Hall was asked to play for a team in Junior C hockey, which is less demanding so he can receive training and play hockey. Bryce Richardson and Kolby Poulin left the Huskies, while Nick Athanasakos was traded to Pickering in exchange for Myles Perry, and Jonah Cochrane was shipped to Brantford in exchange for Alex Cunningham.

Rookie defensemen Noah Van Vliet was not only a member of the Huskies last season, but a member of the 2021-22 Ontario Hockey League champion-

ship winning Hamilton Bulldogs. Having played in the 2022 Memorial Cup, Van Vliet was invited to attend Toronto Maple Leafs development camp in July. However, Van Vliet will not be returning to the Huskies as he looks to take a permanent spot on the Bulldogs blue line.

"It's hard to fill these spots in the roster," said head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay. "We lost a lot of key guys and key secondary guys as well. I love this part of the job the most, preparing and getting a team going is something we do every year but we've worked hard over the summer to put together a competitive team and I think we are well prepared for the upcoming year."

Despite these losses, the Huskies quickly got to work adding to their roster. First up was Cunningham, a 2002 born forward acquired from the Brant-

ford 99ers. With 23 points in 45 games last season, he looks to add experience to the Huskies offense. Bracebridge, Ontario forward Nicholas Dowling was acquired by the Huskies on June 30 from the Brockville Braves of the Central Canada Hockey League (CCHL). Dowling logged 45 points during his under-18 career with the North Central Predators and a further 15 CCHL points with Brockville.

Perry, a former member of the defending OJHL champion Pickering Panthers, will make his Huskies debut this season. Perry logged 35 points with the Panthers, with an additional 32 points coming from his time in North York. In addition to the trades, the team also signed goalie Tyler Hodges and forwards Leo Serlin and Declan Bowmaster. All three players

see page 21

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S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

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Sunday, August 28 @ 2 pm
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vs Pickering Panthers (\$5 admission)

Sunday, September 4 @ 2 pm
vs Pickering Panthers (\$5 admission)

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from page 20

made appearances with the Huskies last season.

Hodges picked up a 3-1 victory in October over the North York Rangers in his lone start of 2021, while Serlin has come up from the Toronto Marlboros under-16 team, logging 48 points in 45 games. Serlin made one appearance with the Huskies last season, logging no points and two penalty minutes. Bowmaster put up three assists in four games with the Huskies, a rather standout debut for the Newmarket, Ontario forward, who nearly scored on his first OJHL shot. Bowmaster spent most of his 2021-22 season with the Oshawa Generals under-18 team, tallying 21 points in 26 games.

"I think our team is better than it was last year," Ramsay said. "We've brought in a lot of good pieces, we made some pretty big trades during the season last year, but I really like our roster this year. We have a lot of returning players as well, now that they are older I think that's a big key factor as well."

In addition to the new players, the second captain in Huskies history was named earlier this month. Christian Stevens will proudly wear the "C" on his jersey this year, while Isaac Sooklal will be the assistant captain. Stevens logged 48 points in 45 games last season with the Huskies, after coming from the OHL's North Bay Battalion. Stevens most notably scored the first ever Michigan-style goal at the S.G Nesbitt Memorial Arena, the goal coming during a 4-3 loss to the Caledon Admirals.

Taking over for Porter won't be an easy job, but Stevens feels he is up for the challenge having learned a lot from the former captain last year. This is something he has dreamt of for a long time during his hockey career, but also something he is used to in his junior days.

"It's an honour truly," Stevens said. "This is a great group of guys and Nate Porter did a fantastic job last season. I thought I had it in me, and when I was a kid I was always a captain in minor so it feels amazing. We are all still pretty riled up after the end to the season last year, so I'm looking forward to getting back at it and leading some of these young guys and hopefully make a good playoff

push."

The decision was one that the coaching staff deliberated on for a while, but the choice to give Stevens the captaincy is one that coach Ramsay feels will give the team the best possible leadership core.

"Stevens is a great kid who works super hard on and off the ice," Ramsay added. "He is very vocal on the ice and is a kid who leads by example. He has matured a lot over the years I've known him and he knows how to step up. He has been with us for over five years, from Whitby to Haliburton. We will also have Isaac Sooklal who will have the assistant captain duties and will take the roll of captain whenever Christian isn't in the lineup."

In terms of goalies, Ramsay did confirm that Christian Linton will be the starter come opening night with rookie Tyler Hodges serving as a backup. Linton, had a record of 6-6-0 with one shut-out and a save percentage of .920. Making a total of 13 starts last season backing up Cicigoi, Linton shined during a tough late season stretch where he won four games in a row.

While Hodges played one game last year, a 3-1 win against the Rangers back on October 10. Spending a majority of last season with the York-Simcoe Express under-18, recording a 2.95 save percentage in 14 games played. Hodges is only 16, and coach Ramsay believes he still has a lot to learn before being able to step up to starter.

"Chris Linton will be our starter for this year," Ramsay concluded. "Linton played really well in the games he started last year and we are looking for improvements for this season. He has been working hard in the off season and is a great kid all around. Tyler Hodges is still young, he is only 16, and although he started a game for us last year, which he won, he still needs to get comfortable in this league and find his groove. He has a lot to learn, but Hodges is another hard worker and we know he will settle in rather quickly."

As the 2022-23 season looms closer, expect more player announcements and more fantastic Huskies hockey. A full seasons schedule has yet to be released, however, fans can expect that announcement will come in the next few weeks.



Municipality of Dysart et al

In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

Form 6 SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on August 31, 2022, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Submitted tenders will be opened virtually by Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting using the link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VYffgHoJRaCQEbyVz07Dow

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 20300 0000; Guilford, Ontario; PIN 39146-0134 (LT); LT 108 PL 581; S/T EXECUTION 95-0000273, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 99-0000132, IF ENFORCEABLE; DYSART ET AL; File No. 19-34

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$19,600

Minimum tender amount: \$5,917.70

2. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 10835 0000; Haliburton; PIN 39185-0154 (LT); PART LOT 12 CON 12 DYSART, PTS 1, 2 & 3 19R5618; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PTS 1 & 2 19R5618 IN FAVOUR OF PTS 4, 5 & 6 19R5618 AS IN H221596; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 20-07

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$34,000

Minimum tender amount: \$6,398.29

3. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 10900 0000; 12953 Highway 118, Haliburton; PIN 39185-0155 (LT); PART LOT 12 CON 12 DYSART AS IN H221596 EXCEPT PTS 1 TO 6 19R5618 & EXCEPT PT 1 19R7027; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PT 7 19R5618 AS IN H221596; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 20-08

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$336,000

Minimum tender amount: \$35,370.63

4. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 15700 0000; Haliburton; PIN 39169-0217 (LT); PT LT 21-22 CON 2 DYSART AS IN H71896 T/W & S/T H71896; DYSART ET AL; File No. 21-01

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$140,000

Minimum tender amount: \$8,403.65

5. Roll No. 46 24 020 000 36700 0000; 1867 Trapper's Trail Rd., Haliburton; PIN 39266-0149 (LT); LT 51 PL 484; DYSART ET AL; File No. 21-09

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$304,000

Minimum tender amount: \$14,496.39

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, availability of road access, any environmental contamination concerns or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form, contact:

Rachael Velkovski
Tax Collector
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Tip of the week: Invasive Species are a threat to environment

Climate change (or climate chaos) is putting animal and human populations around the world at risk, but equally concerning is the biodiversity crisis. Native species are under threat from loss of habitat, pesticides and other reasons such as invasive species. Having few predators and higher rates of reproduction, they can seriously damage their surrounding ecosystem and out compete native species.

In Haliburton County, the emerald ash borer and beech bark disease have spread across the county. Obtain your firewood locally.

Aquatic invasive species include zebra mussels which have found their way into some Haliburton lakes through the Trent Severn Waterway. Spiny water fleas out compete native water fleas which play an important role in our ecosystem. They cling to boating and fishing equipment. Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive aquatic plant which grows in thick, dense mats that crowd out native species, and deoxygenate water when decomposing, killing native aquatic species. It can also damage boat motors and negatively impact fishing and swimming. It is now illegal to place a boat, boating equipment or any vehicle or trailer into any body of water if there are any aquatic plants, animals or algae attached to it. Clean, drain and dry and inspect your boat and fishing equipment between lakes.

For more information about invasive species and how to report occurrences of them, consult the Ontario invasive species website at www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-ontario.

Submitted



The rusty crayfish is an invasive species and is reminder of the importance of ensuring boaters "wash, drain and dry" their watercraft to reduce the chances of introducing invasive species to waterways. Photo by Andrew Von Zuben, member of Highlands East Environment Committee

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The Haliburton Family Medical Centre is seeking a permanent, full-time Team Support (receptionist).

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7217 Gelert Road
P.O. Box 870
Haliburton, ON
K0M 1S0

Attention: Kim Robinson, Executive Director

Deadline for applications is September 30, 2022. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'D' licence with Air Brake 'Z' endorsement is required along with an acceptable abstract and a Certified Road Superintendent designation. Visit <https://www.dysartet.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx> for the detailed job description.

Salary Range \$74,855.34 to \$87,570.16

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Laura Casey, Manager of Payroll and HR
Municipality of Dysart et al
Haliburton, Ontario
hr@dysartet.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Friday, September 9th, 2022

We thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.



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Online condolences may be made at lakelandfuneralcentre.com.

There will be a gathering for a celebration of life on Saturday, September 10th from 1-4pm at the Robert McCausland Memorial Community Centre, 1042 Community Centre Rd. Gooderham, ON.





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**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

THIS WEEK

INTO THE FLAMES
One of the worst forest fire
seasons gets worse... page 7

THIS WEEK

County Fair
Minden hosts popular annual
attraction. For photos see page 21

COUNTY LIFE

The force is with her
Meet Ontario's first female
police chief



THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882

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Hospital dream seems a little bit closer

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Two months from now, county residents should know how many hospital beds will be available if they get sick, and what services will be available at the Minden emergency care unit.

On Thursday night, the Acting Health Services Board agreed to hire the HCM Group to come up with a configuration of beds and services for the county's hospital projects.

The Mississauga company will have two months and \$25,000 to analyze the county's needs and come up with a viable way to create new services and stay within the allocated budget.

"(Ministry officials) are excited we're getting on with it and we should be, too," says the new chairman of the board, Paul Heffer. "I think it's great - we're getting on with it."

The Board has already come up with a rough plan. Acute care beds will be consolidated at Haliburton, where up to 30 long-term care beds will be added. The Minden Hospital, per se, will be moved to the Hyland Crest site and will focus on providing emergency care for the western part of the county. Hyland Crest will also be upgraded to meet present standards, although the consultants

will focus primarily on the hospitals.

Until this spring, when a doctor shortage prompted the closure of acute care beds in Minden, there were 19 acute care beds in the county: nine in Minden and 10 in Haliburton. With the addition of the long-term care beds, will all 19 beds be needed? Can the county afford all 30 long-term care beds? What out-patient services would be most beneficial to Minden?

Afford is the operative word here. The province has approved \$10.6-million in capital costs and will provide two-thirds of the funding. The county must come up with the other third. (See Board briefs on page 19 for details.) More importantly, however, the county must work within the existing operating budgets, which have been running deficits for the past few years. With the approved addition of the long-term care beds, board members are confident the operating budget will be increased to reflect the new costs, but they are still worried about the deficits. By law, hospitals are not allowed to have deficits and must reduce costs to meet the approved spending levels.

Rather than do a brand new needs study, HCM Group will

See CONSULTANTS page 2



MMM, MMM GOOD: At Saturday's Soyer's Lake corn roast at Elstone' Field, 3-year-old Rebecca Birrell digs in and enjoys one of the delicious rites of summer. She was visiting with her grandparents, Bruce and Primrose Birrell, who wouldn't miss this annual social time for lake residents and cottagers. For more photos please see page 33.

Tornado hydro bill \$5-million

by STEPHEN SHAW
Staff Reporter

The tornado that swept through the Highlands last month cost Ontario Hydro \$5-million in damage in the region and turned out the lights for a number of projects planned this year, say officials.

The July 15 storm uprooted trees and left behind rows of downed hydro poles, instantly cutting power to all 16,000 local consumers. In the Highlands alone, the cost of tornado damage is pegged at between \$2.2- and \$2.4-million, says Minden District Operations Manager Rick Kellestine.

The \$5-million figure is the total cost of damage in the Parry Sound, Bracebridge, Huntsville and Minden districts, he said.

Hydro crews brought in from around the province literally rebuilt the hydro system from the ground up in areas servicing the Kennisis and Redstone Lakes, which were in the dark for almost two weeks following the storm. Rows of poles, which tumbled like dominoes during the storm, were replaced and lines were completely re-wired in some areas.

The final bill includes the accommodation costs for the 56 workers brought into the county (200 in total were brought into

the region), but is mostly made up of vehicle and material costs, Kellestine said.

Consumers won't be asked to bear the burden of the bill, assured Kellestine. At least not directly.

"We'll be looking at cost savings in our work budget to offset some of the cost... Obviously because we spent so much time cleaning up from the storm we won't be able to get all the projects we planned done so there will be some savings there," said Kellestine adding that some pole replacement and system upgrading projects will have to be put

See HYDRO page 2

Dysart cracks down on tax arrears

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Dysart council is dropping its gloves in the fight to recover outstanding taxes.

More than a third of the property owners in the county's largest municipality are in arrears on their tax bills. And Dysart wants to collect.

The municipality has called in a provincial bailiff to serve final notice to residential and commercial property owners who owe millions of dollars in back taxes.

"The bailiff has the power to seize property or whatever else is there in compensation," said Reeve Murray Fearrey at last Monday's meeting. "If you're a resort and your taxes are in arrears, (the bailiff) can take away your furniture ... It's a pretty

See ARREARS page 4

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